

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A picture decoding and coding apparatus comprising:

a picture coding apparatus including picture coding means of coding pictures and providing a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture,

priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a priority identifier which ~~assigns a priority level to one or more frames of the coded pictures, and is independent of the picture identifier, and~~

transmission control means of transmitting or recording ~~storing~~ the coded pictures with the priority identifiers[[;]], and

a picture decoding apparatus including reception control means of receiving or reading the coded pictures ~~with the priority identifiers, and~~

picture decoding means of decoding the coded pictures with the priority identifiers,

wherein each priority identifier is used ~~by the picture decoding apparatus~~ to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed ~~by the picture decoding means~~ according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and ~~each priority identifier is used independently of the picture identifiers and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture, and~~

~~a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier, and~~

~~discarding a picture includes discarding an end-of frame.~~

2.-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A picture coding apparatus comprising:

picture coding means of coding pictures and providing a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture[[,]],

priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a priority identifier which ~~assigns a priority level to one or more frames of the coded pictures is independent of the picture identifier[[,]];~~ and

transmission control means of transmitting or ~~recording~~ ~~storing~~ the coded pictures with the priority identifiers to a picture decoding apparatus,

wherein each priority identifier is used ~~by the picture decoding apparatus~~ to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed ~~by the picture decoding apparatus~~ according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and each priority identifier is used independently of the picture identifiers and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture, and

~~a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier, and~~

~~discarding a picture includes discarding an end-of-frame.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

reception control means of receiving or reading picture identifiers identifying an I, P or B picture for coded pictures with correlated priority identifiers transmitted from a picture coding apparatus, and picture identifiers for each picture as an I, P or B picture, each of the priority identifiers assigning a priority level to one or more frames of the coded pictures; and

picture decoding means of decoding the coded pictures with the priority identifiers,

wherein each priority identifier is independent of the picture identifiers and is used by the picture decoding apparatus to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed by the picture decoding means according to a processing load or a processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and each priority identifier is used independently of the picture identifiers and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture, and

~~a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier, and~~

~~discarding a picture includes discarding an end-of-frame.~~

22. (Withdrawn) A sound coding apparatus comprising sound coding means for coding sound information, and transmission control means for transmitting or recording coded various information,

wherein the coded various information is delivered to a sound decoding apparatus comprising reception control means for receiving coded various information, sound decoding means for decoding the received various information, and output means for delivering the

decoded sound.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) A picture decoding and coding apparatus comprising:

~~a receiver for receiving (a) coded pictures transmitted from a picture coding apparatus, and (b) a priority level associated with each coded picture, wherein the priority level is assigned to one or more frames of the coded pictures and obtained from a listing of more than two priority levels arranged in order of importance;~~

~~a processor for processing the coded pictures, and~~

~~output means of delivering the processed pictures,~~

~~wherein the processor processes a picture or discards a picture according to a load or processing capacity of the processor, deciding to process or discard the picture based on its level of importance from the more than two priority levels, and~~

~~a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier, and~~

~~discarding a picture includes discarding an end of frame.~~

a picture coding apparatus including;

picture coding means of coding pictures and providing a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture,

priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a priority identifier which is independent of the picture identifier, and

transmission control means of transmitting or storing the coded pictures with the priority identifiers, and

a picture decoding apparatus including;

reception control means of receiving or reading the coded pictures, and

picture decoding means of decoding the coded pictures with the priority identifiers,

wherein each priority identifier is used to determine whether each picture should be

processed or not be processed by the picture decoding means according to a processing load of the picture decoding apparatus.

25. (Currently Amended) A ~~method of processing pictures from a picture coding apparatus to a decoding apparatus comprising the steps of:~~

~~(a) receiving from the coding apparatus (i) coded I, P and B pictures and (ii) a picture identifier for identifying each picture as an I, P or B picture;~~

~~(b) receiving from the coding apparatus a priority identifier associated with each coded I, P or B picture, the priority identifier assigning a priority level to one or more frames of the coded pictures and derived from a listing of priority levels arranged in order of importance;~~

~~(c) determining at the decoding apparatus a processing load or a processing capacity of the decoding apparatus;~~

~~(d) processing or discarding a received coded picture according to the determined processing load or processing capacity of the decoding apparatus in step (c) and the received priority identifier,~~

~~wherein the received coded picture is processed or discarded based on its level of importance derived from the listing arranged in order of importance, and independently of the picture identifier, and independently of whether the picture is an I, P or B picture, and~~

~~a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier, and discarding a picture includes discarding an end of frame.~~

picture coding means of coding pictures and providing a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B pictures;

priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a priority identifier which is independent of the picture identifier; and

transmission control means of transmitting or storing the coded pictures with the priority identifiers to a picture decoding apparatus,

wherein each priority identifier is used to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed by the picture decoding means according to a processing load of the picture decoding apparatus.

26. (Previously Presented) ~~The method of claim 25 in which the priority identifier received in step (b) is derived from a listing of more than two priority levels arranged in order of importance.~~ A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

reception control means of receiving or reading picture identifiers identifying an I, P or B picture for coded pictures with priority identifiers transmitted from a picture coding apparatus, and each picture; and

picture decoding means of decoding the coded pictures with the priority identifiers,

wherein each priority identifier is independent of the picture identifiers and is used to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed by the picture decoding means according to a processing load of the picture decoding apparatus.

27. (Currently Amended) A picture decoding and coding apparatus comprising:

a picture coding apparatus including;

a picture coding apparatus including picture coding means of coding a picture, and transmission control means of transmitting or recording coded various information corresponding to the picture, and pictures and providing a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture,

priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a priority identifier which is independent of the picture identifier, and

transmission control means of transmitting or storing the coded pictures with the priority identifiers, and

a picture decoding apparatus including; reception control means of receiving the coded various information,

reception control means of receiving or reading the coded pictures, and

picture decoding means of decoding received various information, picture synthesizing means of synthesizing one or more decoded pictures, and output means of delivering the synthesized pictures, the coded pictures with the priority identifiers,

wherein the coded various information includes a picture identifier and a priority

• ~~identifier, the picture identifier being for each picture as an I, P or B picture, and the priority identifier indicating a priority of which the picture is to be processed according to a load processed by a reception side terminal or processing capacity of a reception side terminal, and a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier, and discarding a picture includes discarding an end of frame. each priority identifier is used to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed by the picture decoding means when the picture decoding apparatus is overloaded.~~

28. (Currently Amended) A picture coding apparatus comprising:

~~picture coding means [[for]] of coding a picture, pictures and transmission control means for transmitting or recording coded various information, providing a picture identifier for each picture as an I, P or B picture;~~

priority providing means of correlating each coded picture with a priority identifier which is independent of the picture identifier; and

transmission control means of transmitting or storing the coded pictures with the priority identifiers to a picture decoding apparatus,

~~wherein the coded various information is to be delivered to a picture decoding apparatus comprising reception control means for receiving coded various information, picture decoding means for decoding the received various information, and output means for delivering the decoded picture,~~

~~wherein the coded various information includes a picture identifier and a priority identifier, the picture identifier being for each picture as an I, P or B picture, and the priority identifier indicating a priority of which the picture is to be processed according to a load processed by a reception side terminal or processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and~~

~~a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier[.], and~~

discarding a picture includes discarding an end of frame, wherein each priority identifier is used to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed when the picture decoding apparatus is overloaded.

29. (Currently Amended) A picture decoding apparatus comprising:

reception control means [[for]] of receiving coded various information transmitted from a picture coding apparatus including picture coding means for coding a picture, and transmission control means for transmitting or recording coded various information corresponding to the picture, or reading picture identifiers identifying an I, P or B picture for coded pictures with priority identifiers transmitted from a picture coding apparatus, and each picture; and

picture decoding means [[for]] of decoding the received various information, and coded pictures with the priority identifiers,

output means for delivering the decoded picture,

wherein the coded various information includes a picture identifier and a priority identifier, the picture identifier being for each picture as an I, P or B picture, and the priority identifier indicating a priority of which the picture is to be processed according to a load processed by a reception side terminal or processing capacity of the picture decoding apparatus, and

a decision to discard or not discard a picture is based on the priority identifier, and

discarding a picture includes discarding an end of frame, wherein each priority identifier is independent of the picture identifiers and is used to determine whether each picture should be processed or not be processed by the picture decoding means when the picture decoding apparatus is overloaded.

30.-31. (Canceled)

Respectfully submitted,

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